The stocks of urea during 1990-91 were on the high side because of poor offtake in previous years on account of unfavourable monsoon. Stocks of NPK/DAP at the end of March each year are generally high because of the lean selling period from January onwards. However, the stocks at the end of 1992-93 were higher than normal because of sharp increase in prices due to decontrol of phosphatic fertilizers and fall in offtake.

(d) IFFCO is encouraging competitive selling among co-operative societies and institutional agencies through which the entire production of IFFCO is channelised, and imparting education to farmers regarding adequate and balanced use of all fertilizers.

Disinvestment in Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.

3072. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount realised from disinvestments in shares of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF) during 1991-92 and during 1992-93 ;

(b) the reasons for disinvestments of shares of the company ; and

(c) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration for disinvestments of shares during 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) A total amount of Rs. 61,09,49,801 has been realised from disinvestment of shares of Rashriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF) during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93.

(b) Government has disinvested the shares of public sector undertakings, including RCF, in order to raise non-inflationary resources keeping in view the marketability of the shares, strategic importance of the enterprises and scope for disinvestment, as also the target for mobilising resources.

(c) No decision has yet been taken by the Government about the undertakings whose shares are to be disinvested during 1993-94.

Investment by India in the proposed fertilizer project in Oman

3073. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is investing $ 60 million in the proposed fertilizer project to be set up in Oman ;

(b) if so, what is the cost of the project and what is expected to be debt-equity ratio ;

(c) whether India's share fixed in the equity to be financed by India and Oman in the said project ; and

(d) what method for pricing the end product has been decided ; viz., international prices or cost plus price ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d) The Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sultanate of Oman, envisaging early finalisation of broad technical parameters and financial viability of the proposed gas-based urea project to be set up in Oman. Details like project cost, equity base, pricing etc., will be known only after the completion of the exercises as envisaged in the MOU.

Re-organisation of Sindri Unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited

3074. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any planning to re-organise Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited or to run the Sindri Unit as a new separate company ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Sindri Unit of the FCI Ltd. is having similar technology as in National Fertilizer Limited ; and

(c) if so, whether there is any planning to merge Sindri Unit in National Fertilizer Limited ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) The Sindri Unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd., (FCI) is using technology similar to that of Bhatinda, Nangal and Panipat units of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) for production of urea. FCI has been declared a sick company by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Any final decision regarding reorganisation of FCI would depend upon the outcome of the BIFR proceedings.

Prices of formulations based on Ranitidine

3075. SHRI ABDUL SAMAD SIDDIQUI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) when were the prices of formulations based on bulk drug Ranitidine were fixed and what is the price of bulk drug on which formulation prices are based at present :

(b) whether it is a fact that the current selling price of bulk drug Ranitidine is only Rs. 1,800 per kg. and M/s. Glaxo and M/s. Cadila are purchasing this bulk drug from the outside parties at this rate ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the price of formulations being charged by them are exhorbitant and no efforts have been made to co-relate their prices of formulations with the actual procurement price of bulk drug ; and

(d) whether it is a fact that these companies are giving schemes to the wholesaler and chemists and looting the public with the due support of Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : (a) The selling prices of Ranitidine formulations were fixed on 17-3-1988. While fixing these prices bulk drug import prices of Rs. 4,396 Kg. of Ranitidine was allowed.

(b) and (c) BICP are in process of conducting the Cost-*cum*-Technical study.

(d) No such complaint has been received by the Government.

Parallel drug pricing body

3076. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the News item which appeared in Financial Express on 17th July, 1993 under the heading "Plan for parallel drug pricing body";

(b) if so, what are the details of such a proposal ;

(c) when was such proposal discussed and the details thereof ;

(d) whether such a system exist in any other country and whether any study has been made on this proposal, if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) whether Government have taken any steps to circulate this proposal in Parliament for discussion and how such a proposal differ from the background note on pricing circulated earlier to Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) There is no news item under the heading "Plan for parallel drug pricing body" published in the Financial Express, New Delhi Edition of 17th July, 1993 However, news item with the heading "Government to retain control over drug prices" published in the Financial Express on 17th July, 1993 has come to the notice of the Government. The report in this news item, that the Government is planning to set up a parallel body on the lines of BICP to exclusively deal with fixing of prices of various drugs is without any basis.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Action against overcharging the price of drugs

3077. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN : SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any fine or imprisonment have been imposed on anybody for overcharging the price of bulk drug or a formulation under DPCO 1987 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether any violation of the provisions of DPCO 1987 has taken place so far, if so, what are the details of each case and what action has been taken for each ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) To the extent information is available, the State Drug Controller of Maharashtra has filed 9 cases in the Court of law and the State Drug Controller of Gujarat has initiated action against 3 companies for violation of the provisions of DPCO, 1987.

Cases of violation of the Provisions of DPCO, 1987 are referred to the concerned State Drug Controller/Food & Drug Control Administration and they are empowered to take action under the DPCO, 1987 and the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Marketing Executive (IDPL)

3078. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer given to the unstarred question Nos. 1119 on 7th May, 1992, 2259 on 30th July, 1992, 4597, 4598 and 4622 on 20th August, 1992, 2910 on 18th March, 1993 and Starred Question No. 70 on 29th April, 1993 in Rajya Sabha and state :

(a) whether in reply to part (d) of the Starred Question No. 70. given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th April, 1993, the said information given here was hidden in the reply of part (e) and (f) of the Unstarred Question No. 4598, dated 20th August, 1992 with reasons therefor ;